35624-2
12/23/88

New Mexico Labor Market Review

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Governor

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New Mexico Department of LABOR

Volume 17, No. 10, November 30, 1988
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According to Paul M. Garcia, Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Labor, New Mexico's unemployment rate continued to decline in October, dropping three-tenths of a percentage point from 7.3 percent to 7.0 percent. This represents the state's lowest unemployment rate since August 1984. The number of New Mexicans looking for work decreased by 1,900 during the month, while approximately 8,200 more persons were employed than in September. Approximately 5,100 fewer persons are now unemployed in New Mexico compared with this time last year when the jobless rate stood at 7.8 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 5.0 percent in October, down from 5.2 percent in September and 5.7 percent one year ago.

Nonagricultural payroll employment across the state grew by 1,400 jobs in October to reach an all-time high of 548,800. Employment in government was up moderately as public schools and universities continued to add staff for the fall term. Trade and services followed the usual seasonal pattern of a lull in activity before the holiday buying season in November, but the number of jobs lost in these two sectors was not as great as in past pre-holiday seasons.

In mining, approximately 100 jobs were lost from September, all in the oil and gas extraction subsector. The number of jobs in the mining industry as a whole has decreased by about 300 since this time one year ago, and the majority of the losses were also in oil and gas. Construction showed a slight decline during October with an overall decrease of 100 jobs, while manufacturing continued its recent trend of slow, steady growth with an increase of 200 jobs during the month.

State government posted an increase of about 600 jobs from September, most of which was due to continued hiring by public universities and institutions of higher learning. This increase was realized in spite of the loss of approximately 500 jobs which occurred this year (and every year at this time) when the State Fair closed down. Local government also showed an increase for the month as 1,400 jobs were added due primarily to continued hiring in the public school system.

Overall, most of October's changes in nonfarm payroll employment in New Mexico were favorable for this time of year, resulting in a slightly higher increase in employment than is usual.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Oct. 1988	Sep. 1988	Oct. 1987	Sep. 1988	Oct. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	704,600	698,300	696,600	+6,300	+8,000
Employment	655,400	647,200	642,300	+8,200	+13,100
Unemployment	49,200	51,100	54,300	-1,900	-5,100
Rate	7.0%	7.3%	7.8%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM OCT 1988	REVISED SEP 1988	REVISED OCT 1987	OCT CHANGE FROM SEP 1988	OCT CHANGE FROM OCT 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	548,800	547,400	536,800	1,400	12,000
MINING	15,300	15,400	15,600	-100	-300
Metal Mining	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	100
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	4,000	4,000	4,100	0	-100
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,100	9,200	9,400	-100	-300
CONSTRUCTION	30,600	30,700	32,500	-100	-1,900
MANUFACTURING	41,800	41,600	40,000	200	1,800
DURABLE GOODS	28,300	28,000	26,800	300	1,500
Lumber & Wood Products	2,700	2,800	2,700	-100	0
Machinery(except electric)	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	100
Elec & Electronic Equip	5,700	5,600	5,100	100	600
Transportation Equipment	5,700	5,600	5,200	100	500
Other Durable Goods	11,600	11,400	11,300	200	300
NONDURABLE GOODS	13,500	13,600	13,200	-100	300
Food & Kindred Products	4,400	4,500	4,400	-100	0
Textile & Apparel	2,700	2,700	2,700	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	6,400	6,400	6,100	0	300
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	29,000	28,700	29,100	300	-100
TRANSPORTATION	13,300	13,300	13,200	0	100
Railroad Transportation	2,000	2,100	2,200	-100	-200
Trucking & Warehousing	6,300	6,200	6,100	100	200
Other Transportation	5,000	5,000	4,900	0	100
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15,700	15,400	15,900	300	-200
Communication	6,900	6,900	6,900	0	0
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	8,800	8,500	9,000	300	-200
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	134,500	134,800	130,100	-300	4,400
WHOLESALE TRADE	23,000	22,900	22,900	100	100
Durable Goods	13,400	13,400	13,200	0	200
Nondurable Goods	9,600	9,500	9,700	100	-100
RETAIL TRADE	111,500	111,900	107,200	-400	4,300
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,600	4,600	4,400	0	200
General Merchandise Stores	13,100	12,900	13,000	200	100
Food Stores	15,600	15,600	14,900	0	700
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,500	13,600	13,300	-100	200
Apparel & Accessories	5,600	5,500	5,600	100	0
Furniture & Furnishing	4,400	4,400	4,300	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	42,800	43,400	40,000	-600	2,800
Miscellaneous Retail	11,900	11,900	11,700	0	200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	27,800	27,700	27,400	100	400
Banking	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0
Insurance Carriers	4,000	3,900	3,800	100	200
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	3,000	3,000	2,900	0	100
Real Estate	6,800	6,800	6,700	0	100
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0
SERVICES	126,800	127,200	122,200	-400	4,600
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	11,500	11,900	11,500	-400	0
Personal Services	6,100	6,100	5,800	0	300
Business Services	31,100	31,200	29,500	-100	1,600
Health Services	31,700	31,500	30,700	200	1,000
Legal Services	4,500	4,500	4,300	0	200
Educational Services	6,100	6,000	5,300	100	800
Social Services	6,800	6,800	6,600	0	200
Membership Organizations	6,000	6,000	6,500	0	-500
Other Services	23,000	23,200	22,000	-200	1,000
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	143,000	141,300	139,900	1,700	3,100
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	29,600	29,900	30,200	-300	-600
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	113,400	111,400	109,700	2,000	3,700
State Government 2/	50,500	49,900	49,000	600	1,500
Local Government	62,900	61,500	60,700	1,400	2,200

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

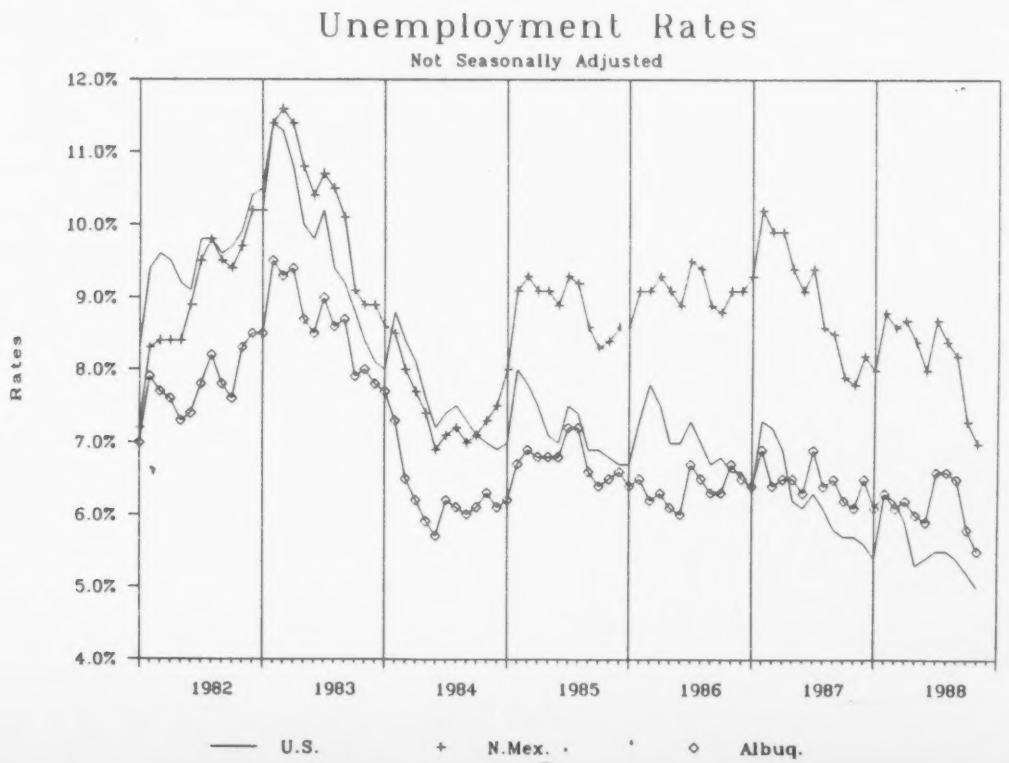
Albuquerque's unemployment rate declined from 5.8 to 5.5 percent in October, continuing the gradually improving trend in evidence since early 1987. The number of unemployed in Bernalillo County dropped to 15,000, down by 700 from September, while total employment rose by 1,300 to 255,700. Approximately 7,900 more Albuquerqueans have jobs now than this time last year, and the area's jobless rate has fallen from 6.1 to 5.5 percent over the last twelve months. Historically speaking, Albuquerque's jobless rate is at a low level -the lowest level in ten years; however, it remains higher than the national average unemployment rate which was 5.0 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in October. Albuquerque's jobless rate has lingered just over the national rate since mid-1987, after running consistently lower than the nation throughout most of the 1980-1986 period.

Our monthly payroll survey of employers indicated a small decline in the total number of nonagricultural jobs in Bernalillo County during October; however, virtually all of the decrease was caused by normal, regularly occurring events such as the close of the State Fair, the beginning of the construction wintertime lull, and the drop-off in tourism from the summer months.

Probably the most noteworthy news in October came from the manufacturing industry, as employers in several manufacturing subsectors, especially electronic equipment, reported hiring during the month. Employment in manufacturing is now 400 jobs above the level of one year ago. As stated in last month's "Review", most of the large layoff announced by Public Service Company of New Mexico in late August - approximately 500 were furloughed in the Albuquerque area - will not be reflected in the unemployment statistics until November estimates are out next month.

Total payroll employment in Albuquerque is currently showing annual growth of approximately 5,000 jobs, an increase of 2.1 percent. This is a fairly modest increase compared to the five to seven percent job expansion experienced in the mid-1980s; however, it compares favorably with the less than one percent job increases in evidence earlier in the decade.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Oct. 1988	Sep. 1988	Oct. 1987	Sep. 1988	Oct. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	270,700	270,100	264,000	+ 600	+6,700
Employment	255,700	254,400	247,800	+1,300	+7,900
Unemployment	15,000	15,700	16,200	- 700	-1,200
Rate	5.5%	5.8%	6.1%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM OCT 1988	REVISED SEP 1988	REVISED OCT 1987	OCT CHANGE FROM SEP	OCT CHANGE FROM OCT 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	239,600	240,000	234,600	-400	5,000
MINING	100	100	200	0	-100
CONSTRUCTION	15,700	15,800	16,000	-100	-300
MANUFACTURING	20,600	20,500	20,200	100	400
Durable Goods	14,900	14,800	14,500	100	400
Nondurable Goods	5,700	5,700	5,700	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,500	12,500	12,500	0	0
Transportation	6,300	6,300	6,100	0	200
Communication	3,800	3,800	3,900	0	-100
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,400	2,400	2,500	0	-100
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	62,700	62,900	60,400	-200	2,300
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,300	14,300	14,200	0	100
Durable Goods	9,600	9,600	9,500	0	100
Nondurable Goods	4,700	4,700	4,700	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	48,400	48,600	46,200	-200	2,200
General Merchandise Stores	5,600	5,500	5,300	100	300
Food Stores	5,300	5,300	5,100	0	200
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	4,800	4,900	4,600	-100	200
Eating & Drinking Places	19,700	20,000	18,200	-300	1,500
Other Retail Trade	13,000	12,900	13,000	100	0
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	15,100	15,100	14,900	0	200
Banking	3,400	3,400	3,300	0	100
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,300	4,300	4,200	0	100
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	7,400	7,400	7,400	0	0
SERVICES	65,300	65,400	64,100	-100	1,200
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3,900	3,900	3,900	0	0
Personal Services	2,700	2,700	2,900	0	-200
Business Services	21,300	21,300	21,000	0	300
Health Services	14,700	14,600	14,600	100	100
Social Services	2,900	2,900	2,700	0	200
Membership Organizations	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	-100
Other Services	18,000	18,200	17,100	-200	900
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	47,600	47,700	46,300	-100	1,300
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	13,100	13,300	13,000	-200	100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	34,500	34,400	33,300	100	1,200
State Government	13,300	13,500	12,900	-200	400
Local Government	21,200	20,900	20,400	300	800

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM OCT 1988	REVISED SEP 1988	REVISED OCT 1987	OCT CHANGE FROM SEP 1988	OCT CHANGE FROM OCT 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	42,500	41,350	41,000	1,150	1,500
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
MANUFACTURING	4,350	4,350	4,450	0	-100
Durable Goods	1,550	1,550	1,750	0	-200
Nondurable Goods	2,800	2,800	2,700	0	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,250	1,250	1,350	0	-100
Transportation	450	450	550	0	-100
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	800	800	800	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	9,200	9,150	8,250	50	950
WHOLESALE TRADE	950	900	850	50	100
RETAIL TRADE	8,250	8,250	7,400	0	850
General Merchandise Stores	1,050	1,050	900	0	150
Food Stores	1,150	1,150	1,000	0	150
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	1,150	1,150	1,100	0	50
Eating & Drinking Places	3,200	3,200	2,900	0	300
Other Retail Trade	1,700	1,700	1,500	0	200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,750	1,750	1,650	0	100
SERVICES	7,100	6,800	6,450	300	650
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	700	700	700	0	0
Business Services	1,500	1,500	1,400	0	100
Health Services	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	100
Social Services	300	300	250	0	50
Other Services	2,700	2,400	2,300	300	400
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16,600	15,800	16,600	800	0
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,200	4,200	4,300	0	-100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12,400	11,600	12,300	800	100
State Government	6,800	6,200	7,000	600	-200
Local Government	5,600	5,400	5,300	200	300

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM OCT 1988	REVISED SEP 1988	REVISED OCT 1987	OCT CHANGE FROM SEP 1988	OCT CHANGE FROM OCT 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	55,750	56,100	53,850	-350	1,900
MINING	50	50	100	0	-50
CONSTRUCTION	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
MANUFACTURING	1,750	1,750	1,650	0	100
Durable Goods	1,150	1,150	1,050	0	100
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,200	1,250	1,200	-50	0
Transportation	450	500	450	-50	0
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	750	750	750	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11,150	11,400	10,600	-250	550
WHOLESALE TRADE	850	850	800	0	50
RETAIL TRADE	10,300	10,550	9,800	-250	500
General Merchandise Stores	950	950	1,050	0	-100
Food Stores	1,200	1,250	1,250	-50	-50
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	850	850	800	0	50
Eating & Drinking Places	4,700	4,900	4,200	-200	500
Other Retail Trade	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	-100
SERVICES	14,800	15,050	14,500	-250	300
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	2,000	2,050	1,850	-50	150
Business Services	3,500	3,600	3,300	-100	200
Health Services	3,400	3,400	3,300	0	100
Social Services	600	600	650	0	-50
Other Services	5,300	5,400	5,400	-100	-100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	22,300	22,100	21,200	200	1,100
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	20,700	20,500	19,600	200	1,100
State Government 3/	16,400	16,300	15,600	100	800
Local Government	4,300	4,200	4,000	100	300

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS
Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
NEW MEXICO	OCT 1988	SEP 1988	OCT 1987	OCT 1988	SEP 1988	OCT 1987	OCT 1988	SEP 1988	OCT 1987
MINING	$502.60	$512.31	$511.39	41.4	42.2	44.2	12.14	12.14	11.57
CONSTRUCTION	$476.60	$471.91	$433.52	40.7	41.0	39.7	11.71	11.51	10.92
MANUFACTURING	$345.14	$347.85	$354.89	39.9	39.8	40.1	8.65	8.74	8.85
Durable Goods	$368.42	$372.00	$374.82	40.8	40.7	41.6	9.03	9.14	9.01
Nondurable Goods	$292.21	$293.71	$303.83	37.9	37.8	36.3	7.71	7.77	8.37
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$549.42	$568.92	$574.74	39.9	40.9	42.7	13.77	13.91	13.46
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$216.00	$217.72	$216.78	32.0	31.6	32.5	6.75	6.89	6.67
Wholesale Trade	$372.41	$374.22	$384.17	40.7	40.5	41.0	9.15	9.24	9.37
Retail Trade	$186.04	$188.07	$185.09	30.3	29.9	30.9	6.14	6.29	5.99
BANKING	$245.05	$233.74	$224.32	37.7	37.7	37.7	6.50	6.20	5.95
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	SEP 1988	AUG 1988	SEP 1987	SEP 1988	AUG 1988	SEP 1987	SEP 1988	AUG 1988	SEP 1987
MANUFACTURING	$379.69	$375.18	$373.60	39.8	39.0	41.1	9.54	9.62	9.09
Durable Goods	$402.75	$398.40	$399.00	40.6	39.8	42.0	9.92	10.01	9.50
Nondurable Goods	$308.84	$302.38	$298.36	37.3	36.3	38.3	8.28	8.33	7.79

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Beginning with the release of January 1988 data, the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has shifted the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to a new reference base year, 1982-84 = 100. Historical data for the CPI series on the new base are available from the U.S. Department of Labor by writing to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 525 Griffin St., Room 221, Dallas, TX 75202, or by calling (214) 767-6970.

	Oct. 1988	Sep. 1988	Oct. 1987	Percent Change Sep'88-Oct.'88	Percent Change Oct.'87-Oct.'88
CPI-U	120.2	119.8	115.3	+0.3%	+4.3%
CPI-W	118.9	118.5	114.1	+0.3%	+4.2%

Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Area Economic Activity

Albuquerque Area: Avonite's 80,000-square-foot manufacturing facility located near Belen should begin production around the first of the year of a polyester-resin based product, called Avonite, which resembles sheets of stone such as marble, granite or agate. Company officials estimate a "base load" employment level of 100 people within a year, and an annual payroll of $2 million. Dress To The Nines, one of the nation's fastest growing apparel chains, and Newberry's, a variety discount store, will co-anchor a new shopping center at 6211 Fourth NW. The new 130,000-square-foot shopping center will be called Guadalupe Plaza and will have 22 stores when fully leased. Dress To The Nines plans to open two more stores in the Albuquerque area and one in Las Cruces by next spring. Revco, the nation's third-largest chain of drugstores, is closing all four of its Albuquerque stores. However, the 22 Revco stores in the remainder of the state will remain open. Trammell Crow Co. has announced plans to build a $25 million shopping center at the corner of NM 528 and Coors Road. Construction of the 516,000-square-foot shopping center, which will be called Riverwalk Marketplace, should begin early next year. Tenants are expected to include one or more discount stores, a few general merchandise retailers, an electronics store and a movie theater complex. Development of the Riverwalk Marketplace will almost coincide with that of the 750,000-square-foot Market Center West, being built at Paseo del Norte and Coors. Construction is expected to start early next year on a new $7 million retirement center on Valencia S.E. The center, which is owned by a local partnership, will house 141 apartments in three separate buildings. Centex American Gypsum began construction in mid-November on its $25 million wallboard manufacturing plant near Bernalillo. Centex officials are looking at a completion date of early 1990 for the plant. The $6.5 million renovation of the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Albuquerque is now scheduled for completion by early next year, according to hotel officials. Work is expected to begin soon on a new 149-room Courtyard by Marriott Hotel on Yale Blvd, just north of the Albuquerque International Airport. Joe E Woods, Inc. of Mesa, Arizona, was selected as the general contractor for the new hotel. An $8.4 million, 154-unit rental-retirement complex will be coming to Rio Rancho by late 1989. The facility, Vista del Rio, will be built and owned by Wedgwood Group of Vancouver, Washington. The new center is expected to employ up to 30 workers. Ground-breaking was held in late November for Diagnostek Inc.'s 40,000-square-foot prescription drugs mail service facility and corporate headquarters near Montgomery Boulevard and I-25. The company plans to employ 50 to 60 people when it occupies the $2 million facility on May 1, with employment growing to about 200 by the end of the first year of operation.

Carlsbad/Artesia Area: Amax Potash Corp. has announced its decision to extend the production and mill operations at its Carlsbad mine, thus creating around 100 new jobs. About 260 people are currently employed by Amax. Hazardous Waste Management Inc. of Carlsbad plans to use mining technology and studies developed for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in a project east of Carlsbad. The project involves using an abandoned potash mine for access to salt beds, which would be mined out and used for the storage of chemical wastes. A study financed by the U.S. Department of Energy found that $72.5 million was contributed to New Mexico's economy by WIPP during the federal government's 1987 fiscal year (Oct. 1, 1986 through Sept. 30, 1987). The study, developed by New Mexico State University and Los Alamos National Laboratory, showed that nearly 3.2 percent of all jobs in the Eddy-Lea county region are directly or indirectly supported by WIPP. Two road projects were scheduled to begin in early November in the Artesia area. Total cost of the two projects will approach $500,000.

Clovis/Portales Area: Gator Transportation Inc. plans to open a trucking operation in Clovis by January 1, 1989. About 20 people will be hired when it opens, with that number increasing to 50 by the end of 1989.

Farmington Area: Amoco Production Company officials have announced plans to purchase Tenneco Oil Company's Rocky Mountain Division. The $900 million purchase will make Amoco the second largest natural gas producer in the San Juan Basin (Meridian Oil is the first). The San Juan Basin is the third largest gas producing area in the United States. Sunbelt Mining Co., a

subsidiary of Public Service Co. of New Mexico, plans to close its Gateway and De-Na-Zin coal strip mining operations by the middle of December. Approximately 49 employees will be affected. Rabourn Construction Inc. was awarded a $1.1 million contract for the expanding and remodeling of educational facilities at San Juan College.

Gallup Area: Navajo tribal officials have announced plans for the expansion and renovation of the Window Rock Shopping Center; the shopping center will be expanded to include a tribal office building and a new federal post office. Construction is expected to take about 18 months and may mean work for about 400.

Las Cruces Area: Griffith Micro-Science, Inc. will open its medical supplies sterilizing plant in April. It will be located in New Mexico, northwest of El Paso, and will employ 30 people with a total payroll of approximately one million dollars annually. Acme Mills, a Detroit-based automotive fabric manufacturer, has announced plans to build a 25,000-square-foot facility in the Santa Teresa Industrial Park. Construction is expected to be finished by the middle of next year.

Las Vegas Area: DNM Inc., a company which manufactures a devise which can eliminate certain types of noise while amplifying others, will set up a small manufacturing plant on the campus of New Mexico Highlands University. DNM is expected to employ 10 to 15 workers during its start-up period and may expand to 60 by the end of the first year.

Moriarty: Construction has started on a new roadside center on the east side of Moriarty which could employ up to 100 workers when in full operation. The new center, to be called Ted's Truck Center, will include 12 fueling bays, a trucker's lounge and a 250-seat restaurant.

Roswell Area: Transportation Manufacturing Corp. has signed a $35 million contract with Boston's Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority for the manufacture of 200 RTS city buses. TMC manufactures five other bus models in addition to the RTS model. These models are used for long-distance commuting, intercity service, charters and tours.

Santa Fe Area: For the first time in several years, the Santa Fe Ski Area and several other northern New Mexico ski facilities were not able to open on Thanksgiving Day. Unseasonably warm weather in late October and early November forced the delayed openings. The Front Row, a new department store in the De Vargas Center, held its grand opening in early November with approximately 45 workers on board. A cost cutting program at Los Alamos National Laboratory will result in savings of about $385 million by 1992, according to lab officials. The cost cutting efforts, which will save the equivalent of more than 400 jobs, have been in the areas of procurement, equipment repair, and reduced paperwork requirements. Wal-Mart officials have announced that it has dropped, at least for now, plans to open a new facility in Espanola as earlier disclosed.

Taos Area: Officials of the Molycorp mine west of Questa are seeking state and federal permits for a tailings pond; the mine could reopen three months after those permits are approved. However, approval is not expected until June of next year at the earliest. The mine closed in 1986 when the price of molybdenum fell to about $2.80 a pound, the price is now up to $3.60 a pound and appears to be stabilizing. When the Liberty Federal Savings Bank was taken over by federal regulators in October, the bank's largest asset was Ski Rio. Government officials said it was probably the first time a government agency has owned and operated a ski resort. Federal officials are currently seeking prospective buyers for the ski facility.

NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY OCTOBER 1988				REVISED SEPTEMBER 1988				REVISED OCTOBER 1987			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	704,642	655,415	49,227	7.0%	698,377	647,230	51,147	7.3%	696,548	642,259	54,289	7.8%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	270,625	255,650	14,975	5.5%	270,121	254,386	15,735	5.8%	264,059	247,843	16,216	6.1%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	60,000	55,916	4,084	6.8%	57,677	53,593	4,084	7.1%	58,109	53,939	4,170	7.2%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	67,814	64,620	3,194	4.7%	67,807	64,691	3,116	4.6%	66,108	62,703	3,405	5.2%
Catron	1,251	1,140	111	8.9%	1,295	1,194	101	7.8%	1,322	1,203	119	9.0%
Chaves	24,799	23,377	1,422	5.7%	23,916	22,498	1,418	5.9%	23,784	22,156	1,628	6.8%
Cibola	9,155	8,223	932	10.2%	9,014	8,008	1,006	11.2%	9,064	8,068	996	11.0%
Colfax	6,336	5,515	821	13.0%	6,254	5,464	790	12.6%	6,996	6,270	726	10.4%
Curry	16,971	15,883	1,088	6.4%	16,666	15,537	1,129	6.8%	17,672	16,360	1,312	7.4%
De Baca	937	849	88	9.4%	918	821	97	10.6%	1,080	996	84	7.8%
Eddy	20,901	19,099	1,802	8.6%	20,461	18,536	1,925	9.4%	20,877	18,683	2,194	10.5%
Grant	10,365	9,414	951	9.2%	10,485	9,609	876	8.4%	10,720	9,767	953	8.9%
Guadalupe	1,616	1,381	235	14.5%	1,658	1,396	262	15.8%	1,776	1,526	250	14.1%
Harding	428	378	50	11.7%	389	340	49	12.6%	512	463	49	9.6%
Hidalgo	2,541	2,384	157	6.2%	2,483	2,341	142	5.7%	2,704	2,540	164	6.1%
Lea	23,157	21,494	1,663	7.2%	22,787	21,090	1,697	7.4%	23,291	21,370	1,921	8.2%
Lincoln	6,846	6,411	435	6.4%	7,108	6,657	451	6.3%	6,568	6,144	424	6.5%
Luna	6,067	5,494	573	9.4%	6,117	5,503	614	10.0%	6,276	5,579	697	11.1%
McKinley	17,439	15,555	1,884	10.8%	17,564	15,495	2,069	11.8%	17,722	15,658	2,064	11.6%
Mora	1,298	958	340	26.2%	1,269	932	337	26.6%	1,421	1,052	369	26.0%
Otero	19,074	17,598	1,476	7.7%	18,903	17,392	1,511	8.0%	18,342	16,909	1,433	7.8%
Quay	4,865	4,491	374	7.7%	4,778	4,426	352	7.4%	5,006	4,600	406	8.1%
Rio Arriba	13,500	11,795	1,705	12.6%	13,474	11,759	1,715	12.7%	13,495	11,334	2,161	16.0%
Roosevelt	8,043	7,684	359	4.5%	7,729	7,338	391	5.1%	8,433	8,105	328	3.9%
Sandoval	28,444	26,474	1,970	6.9%	27,859	25,893	1,966	7.1%	25,236	23,372	1,864	7.4%
San Juan	32,089	29,010	3,079	9.6%	32,192	28,473	3,719	11.6%	33,986	29,732	4,254	12.5%
San Miguel	9,593	8,617	976	10.2%	9,638	8,614	1,024	10.6%	10,241	9,083	1,158	11.3%
Sierra	2,709	2,577	132	4.9%	2,697	2,525	172	6.4%	2,768	2,586	182	6.6%
Socorro	6,210	5,710	500	8.1%	6,243	5,689	554	8.9%	6,249	5,698	551	8.8%
Taos	9,540	7,627	1,913	20.1%	9,619	7,748	1,871	19.5%	10,557	8,300	2,257	21.4%
Torrance	3,665	3,302	363	9.9%	3,505	3,147	358	10.2%	3,782	3,409	373	9.9%
Union	2,045	1,940	105	5.1%	1,951	1,807	144	7.4%	2,348	2,202	146	6.2%
Valencia	16,319	14,849	1,470	9.0%	15,800	14,328	1,472	9.3%	16,044	14,609	1,435	8.9%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

New Mexico Department of Labor
Economic Research and Analysis (CC 6097)
P.O. Box 1928
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

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LABOR SURPLUS AREAS IN NEW MEXICO

The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration recently released its new listing of Labor Surplus areas (LSA's) eligible for federal procurement preference. New Mexico now has 30 areas classified as Labor Surplus. Employers located in LSA's can be given preference bidding on federal procurement contracts. The purpose of providing such preference is to help direct government dollars into areas experiencing high unemployment. Following is the listing of Labor Surplus Areas in New Mexico effective for the period October 1, 1988 through September 30, 1989.

Alamogordo City
Balance of Bernalillo Co.
(Bernalillo Co. less Albuquerque City)
Carlsbad City
Balance of Eddy County
Catron County
Roswell City
Balance of Chaves County
Cibola County
Clovis City
Colfax County
DeBaca County
Farmington City
Balance of San Juan County
Grant County
Guadalupe County
Harding County
Hobbs City
Balance of Lea County
Luna County
McKinley County
Mora County
Quay County
Rio Arriba County
San Miguel County
Sandoval County
Socorro County
Taos County
Torrance County
Union County
Valencia County

The Business Service Centers of the U.S. General Services Administration can provide information concerning Federal contracting opportunities. The mailing address and phone number of the Business Service Center responsible for New Mexico are as follows:

Business Service Center
General Services Administration
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

(817) 234-3284